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Proposed Claim Amendments

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1-8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) The metal stud assembly of claim 10, wherein said alignment slot comprises a pair of elongated alignment slots.

10. (currently amended) A metal stud assembly adapted for constructing a metal wall frame ~~between a pair of channel members~~, comprising:

a stud; and

a channel member;

wherein the channel member includes a retainer; and

wherein the stud includes

a longitudinally-extending central column portion having a pair of opposite end portions;

a pair of side walls formed on opposite sides of said central column portion;

and

a first retainer;

and at least one an alignment slot that receives the retainer, formed in one of said end portions of said central column portion said stud for receiving the first retainer formed on one of said channel members;

wherein said alignment slot is formed in at least one of said end portions of said central column portion.

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11. (currently amended) The metal stud assembly of claim 10, further comprising an extender longitudinally slidably mounted within said stud.

12. (currently amended) The metal stud assembly of claim 11, wherein said extender is formed with a push hole for pushing and sliding said extender within said stud.

13. (currently amended) The metal stud assembly of claim 11, wherein the retainer is a first retainer, the metal stud assembly further comprising

further comprising a second retainer formed on one of said channel members member,

wherein said first retainer has at least one slot formed therein for receiving that receives the second retainer.

14. (currently amended) The metal stud assembly of claim 10, further comprising a spacer bar,

wherein the stud includes an indented portion formed in at least one of said side walls for receiving a that receives the spacer bar.

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) A metal wall frame system, comprising:

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a metal channel member having a floor portion and a pair of side walls upstanding from said floor portion;

a series of stops formed at predetermined intervals along the floor portion of said channel member;

a series of retainer members formed at predetermined intervals along said channel member; and

a series of metal studs interconnected to said channel member, wherein each said stud has at least one alignment slot formed therein, receives a respective one of said retainer members through one said alignment slot, and is butted against a respective one of said stops;

wherein said stops are formed as upstanding tabs struck from said channel member.

17. (previously presented) A metal wall frame system, comprising:

a metal channel member having a floor portion and a pair of side walls upstanding from said floor portion;

a series of stops formed at predetermined intervals along the floor portion of said channel member;

a series of retainer members formed at predetermined intervals along said channel member;

a series of metal studs interconnected to said channel member, wherein each said stud has at least one alignment slot formed therein, receives a respective one of said

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retainer members through one said alignment slot, and is butted against a respective one of said stops; and

a series of longitudinally spaced crimp portions crimped inwardly from said side walls and locking said studs on said channel member.

18. (previously presented) The system of claim 17, further comprising a series of spacer bars, each said spacer bar interconnecting adjacent ones of said studs.

19. (previously presented) A metal wall frame system, comprising:

a metal channel member having a floor portion and a pair of side walls upstanding from said floor portion;

a series of stops formed at predetermined intervals along the floor portion of said channel member;

a series of retainer members formed at predetermined intervals along said channel member;

a series of metal studs interconnected to said channel member, wherein each said stud has at least one alignment slot formed therein[.]] that receives a respective one of said retainer members, and is butted against a respective one of said stops; and

a series of spacer bars, each said spacer bar interconnecting adjacent ones of said studs;

wherein each of said studs comprises a socket and wherein each said spacer bar comprises a series of projections respectively extending into each of said sockets.

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20. (previously presented) A metal wall frame system, comprising:  
a metal channel member having a floor portion and a pair of side walls upstanding from said floor portion;  
a series of stops formed at predetermined intervals along said channel member;  
a series of retainer members formed at predetermined intervals along said channel member;  
a series of metal studs interconnected to said channel member, wherein each said stud has at least one alignment slot formed therein, receives a respective one of said retainer members, and is butted against a respective one of said stops; and  
a series of spacer bars, each said spacer bar interconnecting adjacent ones of said studs;  
wherein each said stud comprises a side wall having a recessed portion receiving a respective one of said spacer bars.

21. (previously presented) The system of claim 16, further comprising a series of longitudinally spaced crimp portions crimped inwardly from said side walls and locking said studs on said channel member.

22. (previously presented) The system of claim 16, further comprising a series of spacer bars, each said spacer bar interconnecting adjacent ones of said studs.

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23. (previously presented) The system of claim 22, wherein each of said studs comprises a socket and wherein each said spacer bar comprises a series of projections respectively extending into each of said sockets.

24. (previously presented) The system of claim 22, wherein each said stud comprises a side wall having a recessed portion receiving a respective one of said spacer bars.

25. (previously presented) The system of claim 18, wherein each of said studs comprises a socket and wherein each said spacer bar comprises a series of projections respectively extending into each of said sockets.

26. (previously presented) The system of claim 18, wherein each said stud comprises a side wall having a recessed portion receiving a respective one of said spacer bars.

27. (previously presented) The system of claim 19, wherein each said stud comprises a side wall having a recessed portion receiving a respective one of said spacer bars.

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Amendments to the Claims

1-8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) A metal stud assembly adapted for constructing a metal wall frame, comprising:  
a stud; and  
a channel member;  
wherein the channel member includes a retainer; and  
wherein the stud includes  
a longitudinally-extending central column portion having a pair of opposite end portions;  
a pair of side walls formed on opposite sides of said central column portion;  
and  
an alignment slot that receives the retainer, formed in one of said end portions of said central column portion;  
The stud of claim 10, wherein said alignment slot comprises a pair of elongated alignment slots.

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) The metal stud assembly of claim 10, further comprising an extender longitudinally slidably mounted within said stud.

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12. (currently amended) The metal stud assembly of claim 11, wherein said extender is formed with a push hole for pushing and sliding said extender within said stud.

13. (currently amended) The metal stud assembly of claim 11, wherein the retainer is a first retainer, the metal stud assembly further comprising  
further comprising a second retainer formed on one of said channel members  
member,

wherein said first retainer has at least one slot formed therein for receiving that  
receives the second retainer.

14. (currently amended) The metal stud assembly of claim ~~10~~ 9, further comprising a spacer bar,  
wherein the stud includes an indented portion formed in at least one of said side walls for receiving a that receives the spacer bar.

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)



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18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (previously presented) A metal wall frame system, comprising:

a metal channel member having a floor portion and a pair of side walls upstanding from said floor portion;

a series of stops formed at predetermined intervals along said channel member;

a series of retainer members formed at predetermined intervals along said channel member;

a series of metal studs interconnected to said channel member, wherein each said stud has at least one alignment slot formed therein, receives a respective one of said retainer members, and is butted against a respective one of said stops; and

a series of spacer bars, each said spacer bar interconnecting adjacent ones of said studs;

wherein each said stud comprises a side wall having a recessed portion receiving a respective one of said spacer bars.

21. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~16~~ 24, further comprising a series of longitudinally spaced crimp portions crimped inwardly from said side walls and locking said studs on said channel member.

22. (canceled)

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23. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~22~~ 24, wherein each of said studs comprises a socket and wherein each said spacer bar comprises a series of projections respectively extending into each of said sockets.

24. (currently amended) A metal wall frame system, comprising:  
a metal channel member having a floor portion and a pair of side walls upstanding from said floor portion;  
a series of stops formed at predetermined intervals along said channel member;  
a series of retainer members formed at predetermined intervals along said channel member;  
a series of metal studs interconnected to said channel member, wherein each said stud has at least one alignment slot formed therein, receives a respective one of said retainer members, and is butted against a respective one of said stops; and  
a series of spacer bars, each said spacer bar interconnecting adjacent ones of said studs;  
wherein said stops are formed as upstanding tabs struck from said channel member; and  
~~The system of claim 22,~~ wherein each said stud comprises a side wall having a recessed portion receiving a respective one of said spacer bars.

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25. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~18~~ 26, wherein each of said studs comprises a socket and wherein each said spacer bar comprises a series of projections respectively extending into each of said sockets.

26. (currently amended) A metal wall frame system, comprising:  
a metal channel member having a floor portion and a pair of side walls upstanding  
from said floor portion;

a series of stops formed at predetermined intervals along said channel member;

a series of retainer members formed at predetermined intervals along said channel  
member;

a series of metal studs interconnected to said channel member, wherein each said  
stud has at least one alignment slot formed therein, receives a respective one of said  
retainer members, and is butted against a respective one of said stops;

a series of longitudinally spaced crimp portions crimped inwardly from said side  
walls and locking said studs on said channel member; and

a series of spacer bars, each said spacer bar interconnecting adjacent ones of said  
studs;

~~The system of claim 18,~~ wherein each said stud comprises a side wall having a recessed portion receiving a respective one of said spacer bars.

27. (currently amended) A metal wall frame system, comprising:

a metal channel member having a floor portion and a pair of side walls upstanding  
from said floor portion;

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a series of stops formed at predetermined intervals along said channel member;  
a series of retainer members formed at predetermined intervals along said channel  
member;  
a series of metal studs interconnected to said channel member, wherein each said  
stud has at least one alignment slot formed therein, receives a respective one of said  
retainer members, and is butted against a respective one of said stops; and  
a series of spacer bars, each said spacer bar interconnecting adjacent ones of said  
studs;  
wherein each said stud comprises a socket and wherein each said spacer bar  
comprises a series of projections respectively extending into each of said sockets; and  
~~The system of claim 19,~~ wherein each said stud comprises a side wall having a  
recessed portion receiving a respective one of said spacer bars.

28. (new) A metal stud assembly adapted for constructing a metal wall frame,  
comprising:

- a stud;
- a channel member; and
- an extender longitudinally slidably mounted within said stud;
- wherein the channel member includes a retainer; and
- wherein the stud includes
  - a longitudinally-extending central column portion having a pair of opposite  
end portions;
  - a pair of side walls formed on opposite sides of said central column portion;

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an alignment slot that receives the retainer, formed in one of said end portions of said central column portion.

29. (new) The stud assembly of claim 28, wherein said alignment slot comprises a pair of elongated alignment slots.

30. (new) The metal stud assembly of claim 28, wherein said extender is formed with a push hole for pushing and sliding said extender within said stud.

31. (new) The metal stud assembly of claim 28, wherein the retainer is a first retainer, the metal stud assembly further comprising  
a second retainer formed on said channel member,  
wherein said first retainer has at least one slot formed therein that receives the second retainer.

32. (new) The metal stud assembly of claim 28, further comprising a spacer bar,  
wherein the stud includes an indented portion formed in at least one of said side walls that receives the spacer bar.

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**Amendments to the Drawings**

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1. This sheet, which includes Figs. 1, 1a, and 1b, replaces the original sheet. In Fig. 1, question marks as notations have been deleted.

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Reply to Office action dated 05/25/2005

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Amendments to the Claims

1-8. (canceled)

9-10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) The metal stud assembly of claim ~~10~~ 14, further comprising an extender longitudinally slidably mounted within said stud.

12. (currently amended) The metal stud assembly of claim 11, wherein said extender is formed with a push hole for pushing and sliding said extender within said stud.

13. (currently amended) The metal stud assembly of claim 11, wherein the retainer is a first retainer, the metal stud assembly further comprising

further comprising a second retainer formed on one of said channel members  
member,

wherein said first retainer has at least one slot formed therein for receiving that  
receives the second retainer.

14. (currently amended) A metal stud adapted for constructing a metal wall frame  
between a pair of channel members, comprising: